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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

Crain

25X1

1. When Minister Kurt Gregor returned on 20 April 1953 from Moscow where, at the instruction of Minister President Otto Grotewohl he had personally conducted negotiations for 1953 grain imports, it turned out that 50 percent less barley was to be imported during the first half of 1953 than had been planned. The 1953 plan called for 400,000 tons of barley to be imported during the first half year, but only 200,000 tons of imports have been realized. Instead of the planned 70,000 tons of oats, only 50,000 tons had been imported; and only 6,000 of the planned 20,000 tons of corn (maize) had reached East Germany. As a result 234,000 tons less fodder grain had been received than was provided for in the 1953 People's Economic Plan. Despite urgent pleas by Minister Gregor, the Russians refused to do anything about the situation.
2. In spite of the serious cuts in imports, the supply plan for grain for the second quarter of 1953 has not been changed. As a last resort the Politburo decided on 19 April 1953 to completely dissolve state reserves of fodder grain, making available 55,000 tons of barley and 45,000 tons of oats. Since the State Secretariat for the Administration of State Reserves required a decree by the Ministerial Council or by the Praesidium, dissolution of the state reserves was not officially announced by the State Secretariat for Procurement and Purchase until 28 April, and then only after Deputy Minister President Walter Ulbricht had personally ordered that all fodder grain in state reserves be immediately released. Nevertheless, the lacking 234,000 tons of fodder grains from imports can be made up only in part by the 100,000 tons from state reserves. Instead of taking action to procure the lacking amounts of fodder grain, members of the SED Central Committee have augmented the existing supply plan for agricultural production cooperatives by 21,000 tons of fodder grain and made available 7,000 tons of barley for state fattening farms (Mastbetriebe). Moreover, these amounts are to be delivered on priority basis.
3. The supply situation for rye is equally serious. In accordance with an order of 15 April 1953 from State Secretary Ceyher to State Secretary Streit, 65,000 tons of rye from state reserves were made available to cover the production of flour to supply the civilian population. At least an additional 85,000 tons of rye will be needed before the new harvest.

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10

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25X1

4. A further example for the insufficient realization of production quotas is to be seen in the spirits industry (Spirittindustrie). Because of insufficient deliveries of industrial potatoes, the spirits industry is short about 64,000 hectoliters of crude spirits. To cover this shortage, 25,000 tons of grain are needed. Of this amount only 10,000 tons of spirit wheat, for the most part from 1952 imports from Rumania and Hungary, are on hand. However, the Planning Commission is hesitant to approve the use of the wheat because Bruno Leuschner is still of the opinion that such wheat can be used for fodder. In addition, some 75,000 hectoliters of crude spirits which are to be delivered to the Russians in accordance with the terms of the long-term export agreement with Russia, are still lacking.
5. There are also serious shortages on the fodder market, and it is to be noted that during the first quarter of 1953, 200,000 swine died because of lack of fodder.

Vegetables

6. Even though the first early vegetables from hothouses had been available in small quantities for about six weeks, producers were not issued any obligatory delivery quotas. Not until 23 April, were the necessary orders given out to the Councils of the Bezirke and Kreise. Because of this fact, the small quantities of hothouse vegetables on hand were not applied toward realizing the supply plan but were sold directly by the producers. The only type of vegetable which the civilian population can currently purchase on the market is spinach.

Potatoes

7. According to a recent survey, seed potatoes for planting 85,000 hectares are lacking. Most of the 85,000 hectares of land had to be planted with other crops in order not to let the fields lie fallow.
8. There are, indeed, not enough potatoes to completely supply the population with the amounts allotted them on their ration cards. Approximately 260,000 tons of cooking potatoes are in short supply. In addition, 32 percent of the 115,000 tons of potatoes for which storage contracts were signed in the fall of 1952 between producers and the VEAB have not been stored at all. In this connection it should be noted that storage contracts concluded with People's-owned farms for 30,000 tons of fodder potatoes have been released for the use of the storer at the direction of Minister President Grotewohl. The reason for this action is that the quantities from these storage contracts were either taken prematurely and without approval from the storage pits (Mieten) or are so poor in quality that they cannot be used as fodder potatoes.

Livestock for slaughter

9. According to notices currently being received, during March and April the average weight of swine upon delivery to the abattoirs was below 120 kilograms (264 pounds). Because of the shortages of fodder mentioned above, beef was easily obtainable in East Germany during April, since many beef cattle were being slaughtered simply because there was no fodder for them.

Eggs

10. As is usual in spring, egg production was quite sufficient during April 1953, but difficulties were encountered in supplying the civilian population because absolutely no material for packing and shipping eggs was available. Also, there is a tendency in government offices to withhold eggs from the population in order to store them. In this connection it should be noted that although the 1952 Investment Plan called for the new construction of cold storage installations with a capacity of 33,000 metric tons, actually only enough storage room for 6,000 metric tons was built. This explains the extreme difficulties incurred in East Germany in freezing and storing meat and eggs to insure a normal flow of these articles to the civilian population throughout the year. Because of the small amount produced, butter is not stored at all.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- 3 -

Oil seed plants

11. During the first quarter of 1953 only 22,000 tons of soy beans and peanut kernels (Erdnusskerne) were received from China, and as a result production quotas during this period could be fulfilled only 36 percent. To make up for the import deliveries not received, 6,000 tons of East German rapeseed and poppy were delivered to the centrally directed (Zentralgesteuerte) oil factories. Since stocks of oil seed plants for the second quarter are essentially reduced because they have already been used during the first quarter, a measure was instituted whereby only 16 centrally controlled oil factories are to engage in production during the second quarter of 1953. The end result is that extreme difficulties have arisen in supplying the civilian population with oils and margarine. For example, for twelve weeks vegetable oil could not be bought either in the HO stores or in the markets.

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